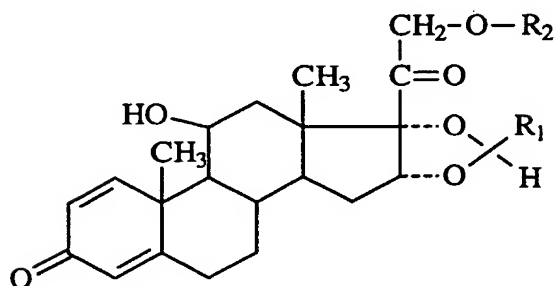


CLAIMS

1. A pharmaceutical aerosol formulation comprising

particles of formoterol or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate or physiologically functional derivative thereof, said particles being suspended in the formulation;

a compound of the formula (I):



in which: R_1 is 1-butyl, 2-butyl, cyclohexyl or phenyl and R_2 is acetyl or isobutanoyl, said compound of formula (I) being dissolved in the formulation; and

a propellant selected from 1,1,1,2-tetrafluoroethane, 1,1,1,2,3,3,3-heptafluoropropane and a mixture thereof.

2. A pharmaceutical aerosol formulation according to claim 1, wherein the formoterol is in the form of fomoterol fumarate.
3. A pharmaceutical aerosol formulation according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the compound of formula (I) is ciclesonide.
4. A pharmaceutical aerosol formulation according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the formulation further comprises ethanol.
5. A pharmaceutical aerosol formulation according to claim 4, wherein ethanol is present in an amount from 3 to 20% by weight of the formulation.

6. A pharmaceutical aerosol formulation according to claim 5, wherein ethanol is present in an amount from 3.5 to 20% by weight of the formulation.
7. A pharmaceutical aerosol formulation according to claim 6, wherein ethanol is present in an amount from 5 to 20% by weight of the formulation.
- 5 8. A pharmaceutical aerosol formulation according to any one of the claims 1 to 7, wherein the propellant is 1,1,1,2-tetrafluoroethane or a mixture of 1,1,1,2-tetrafluoroethane and 1,1,1,2,3,3,3-heptafluoropropane.
9. A pharmaceutical aerosol formulation according to any one of the claims 1 to 8, wherein 1,1,1,2-tetrafluoroethane is the only propellant component.
- 10 10. A pharmaceutical aerosol formulation according to any one of claims 1 to 9, wherein the formulation further comprises a bulking agent having a mass median diameter of less than one micron.
11. A pharmaceutical aerosol formulation according to claim 10, wherein the bulking agent has a mass median diameter of not more than 300 nm.
- 15 12. A pharmaceutical aerosol formulation according to claim 10 or claim 11, wherein the weight ratio of formoterol or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate or physiologically functional derivative thereof to bulking agent is in the range 1:0.1 to 1:25.
13. A dispenser comprising an aerosol vial equipped with a dispensing valve, said
20 aerosol vial containing a formulation according to any one of claims 1 to 12.
14. A dispenser according to claim 13, wherein an interior surface of the aerosol vial is coated with a coating comprising a fluorocarbon polymer.
15. A method of preparing a formulation according to claim 1, the method comprising the steps of (i) providing a solution of the compound of formula (I)
25 in 1,1,1,2-tetrafluoroethane and/or 1,1,1,2,3,3,3-heptafluoropropane and (ii) dispersing particles of formoterol or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate or physiologically functional derivative thereof in said solution.